

An Unforgeable Dedication Day

(Nehemiah 12:27-38; 30-31; 35-40; 42c-47)

Proposition: If we will look at this unforgeable day of worship and apply the principals therein, I believe that we will have more memorable days of worship in our lives.

I. **The Dedication of the Walls** (Vs. 27-30)

A. An Appreciation to God (Vs. 27a)

B. An Adoration of God (Vs. 27b)

C. An Adherence before God (Vs. 30)

II. **The Display of Worship** (Vs. 31-43)

A. Celebration was Displayed (Vs. 27b; 43)

B. Singing was Displayed (Vs. 28a; 29c; 35c;)

C. A System was Displayed (Vs. 31;36b-40; 46)

III. **The Demonstration of Willingness** (Vs. 43-47)

A. A Willingness in Sacrifice (Vs. 43)

B. A Willingness in Support (Vs. 44-45)

C. A Willingness in Sanctification (Vs. 47)

An Unforgettable Dedication Day

Neh 12: 27-38; 30-31; 35-40; 42c-47

I have been in a few unforgettable worship services in my day. I remember the great turning point service at Temple where Bro Ken preached "I am Not Ashamed" what a service where God moved in on us. Sitting in the ashes where God broke me wholly and completely is what ever he wanted me to do. One of the most memorable services was the dedication service in the new sanctuary in 2004. "Unto Him be glory in the church". We shouted and praised God well into the afternoon. I'm sure that all of us could describe such services where God was glorified and the people were edified. Where God touched your heart as he had not in the past. Where God revealed himself in an unforgettable way. Why are these services so few and far between? God is the same yesterday today and forever. What is missing when we worship?

I. The Dedication of the Walls (27-31)

All of the work is complete, walls and doors are finished, streets are cleared. Gates are fixed. People are populating,

A. On Appreciation to God (27a) - The word "dedication" means to consecrate to set aside as belonging to God. This dedication was to include singing and Thanksgiving! These people were appreciative of what God had enabled them to do. When we assemble to worship, an appreciation for God should be the forefront.

C. An Adherence before God (30) - The theme of holiness in purity is raised again. These are a people soaked in repentance toward God. With a heart that longs to walk in His ways, Ch 10:29 They went into a curse. That has captured my heart as of late. We are to dedicate our hearts and lives to devotion to our great God.

This chapter is very descriptive and puts on display a beautiful worship service. There are some key

1) ...when we worship that carries the moment of worship past the mundane and into the memorable. If we will look at this unforgeable day of worship and apply the principals therein, I believe that we will have more memorable days of worship in our lives.

2) 1 Thessalonians 5:18 In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you.

3) Charles Swindoll "Moral carelessness and borderline sin give laughter a hollow ring" Without purity of heart, we can not be free and whole hearted in our worship.

1) ...country pastor that when to a big formal high falooten church service. The priests were in their robes and the choir was chanting. And these priest came in with these incense pots waving the smoke in the air. He thought that's what I need. He couldn't afford the fancy incense pots so he got him some coffee cans and poked holes in them. He got his men together and said when I chant "The Lord is in His holy Temple blessed be his holy name..." you start coming down the isle. Well the pastor spoke for a while the started his chant. No one came. He did it again no one came in. Finally he did it again and the men started walking down the isle with out the incense pots. The pastor chanted "what did you do with the incense pots?" They chanted back, "We threw them out the window when the bottoms got hot!"

2) ...a people that have reason to rejoice and be glad it is those men and women boys and girls that God has snatched out of a burning hell and placed them on their way to heaven!

3) Ephesians 5:18-19 And be not drunk with wine, wherein is excess; but be filled with the Spirit; Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;

4) Don't mistake 1 Corinthians 14:40 Let all things be done decently and in order. To mean or deadly and in boredom. They enjoyed themselves as they worshiped God. Worshiping God is not a drudgery! It is the overflow of an adoring heart!

elements of their worship that should be ours

A. Celebration was Displayed (276, 43)

This was not a funeral march. These were a joyous and glad people. This wasn't a dead dry formal ceremony it was a celebration. I heard someone about this

You can take all that formal stiff dead religiously and throw it out the window. If there is any where in the world a people

B. Singing was Displayed - Celebrate

was connected with singing. It's biblical to sing praises unto God, not for the sake of just singing them. "Music short-circuits the senses with a direct pathway into human emotion" Paul connected singing w/ being filled w/ the Spirit Eph 5:18-19 (3) vs 43 A few off!!

C. A System was Displayed - Please

take note, that yet there was celebration and singing. There was gladness and rejoicing but it was in order. There was a system a prescribed order to what they were doing. It wasn't a free-for-all chaos. They were singing songs from David's hymnbook. Don't mistake (4)

III. The Demonstration of Willingness

A wonderful worship experience with the Lord, will always end in a willingness of self-sacrifice. A spirit

of giving to God. Maybe we should receive off
A. Willingness in Sacrifice - Vs 43

Worship is not to get something from God although most of the time we do but worship is to give something to God. Their gladness turned into giving. True worship will always engender sacrifice. Sacrifice of our will, our wants, our desires, our ^{penalty} ~~finance~~ ^{even our lives}.

B. Willingness in Support (44-45)

There were sacrifices to God but also to the work of God. Portions were given for those that ministered in the Temple. Matthew Henry said "The people were more careful than they had been of the ^{mainte} ~~ence~~ of their ministers. These lights don't keep themselves on. It is ^{our} ~~their~~ responsibility to keep this

C. Willingness in Sanctification

They also sanctified ~~some~~ things, set them apart as holy and completely for the use of the Lord. Whether it is these things given to the Levites or Levites to the priests. They were set apart. When we end our corporate worship may our mind set be the same.

IV. Closing - What a Meeting! When!

We would have had a Temple and we would cry and shout so that after church Carey would have a headache and call it a Holy Ghost Hangover. May we have these

- 1) ...to keep this lighthouse of the Gospel of Christ lit for others to find their way.